UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Technical Surveillance Countermeasures Subcommittee

Research and Development Working Group

22 MAY 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Security Committee

VIA : Chairman, Technical Surveillance Countermeasures Subcommittee

SUBJECT : Classified Document Destruction

REFERENCE : Mr. Donald Paschal Memo, NIS 09X/5500 Ser C-150 of 20 Jan 76

1. The problems concerning routine destruction of classified material as set forth in the referenced memorandum have been examined.

2. Member agencies were polled to determine what methods of routine destruction are currently employed to identify problems encountered utilizing current techniques to identify existing or planned R&D efforts. The results of this poll were not surprising. It was learned that few unique destruction situations exist and that nearly all agencies utilize some form of mechanical destruction (mulching, shredding, hammermills, etc) or incineration.

3. Although incinerators provide the surest method of destruction of classified material, the current surge of interest in environmental protection is having a negative impact on destruction in this manner. As clean air standards are imposed on a community it forces those within that community dependent on incineration to retrofit incinerators so they conform to the standards or to transport material to an incinerator located in an area with less stringent standards, a stop gap measure at best. Either situation will have a heavy financial impact on the agency affected. Hammermills tend to be considered unacceptable for use in an office environment due to the high noise levels associated with this type of equipment. Further, their inability to cope with large amounts of destruct material and susceptability to mechanical failure seem to make them very inefficient methods of destruction. The requirements voiced by those polled are for quiet, efficient systems which are non-polluting, capable of handling reasonably large amounts of printed matter and film based microform material and suitable for use in an office atmosphere.

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4. A current CIA R&D project involves the study of known non-mechanical techniques for routine destruction. The goal of this project is to identify potential document destruct system concepts suitable for office use which optimize the most promising concepts within the following system constraints:

a. Destruction capacity

Printed matter	400 lbs/hr
Microform	1 lb/hr

b. Maximum power consumption 10KW

c. Residue must be easily handleable

d. Must comply with current and near future environmental standards

This project is due to be completed in November 1976.

5. A second program currently under funding by CIA is designed to develop an analytical method for, and to study the effects of, particle size and other parameters on reconstruction probabilities for microfische and other printed matter destroyed by chopping, shredding or other similar processes. A June/July 76 completion date of this program is anticipated. Final reports of both projects will be made available to the members of the Security Committee.

6. A prototype system for the instantaneous destruction of small quantities of documents (50-60 sheets) was recently completed by CIA. The system, installed in a 5-inch attache case, explosively forces the documents through a honeycomb structure. The instantaneous destruction capabilities of this system may hold some interest for Security Committee members although it is an emergency vice routine destruct system. A short film is available for those interested in this system.

7. No other R&D projects for the routine destruction of documents were identified nor were any agencies contemplating such expenditures of funds. Within Navy, Naval Research Laboratories (NRL) was

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identified as having an ongoing interest in the sphere of emergency destruct systems. NRL advised they would be willing to collate and disseminate at a nominal cost any information provided by member agencies relative to routine destruct R&D projects or systems. As no R&D interest in this field has been identified at this time, it appears this approach would be an unnecessary expenditure particularly in view of CIA's current projects which, if successful, seems to satisfy everyone's stated current and future needs.

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